

Approved at the January 27, 2009 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
November 18, 2008 – **5:00 p.m.**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

Board Members present: Hank Olson, Chairman; Bill Shaw, Vice Chair; Nancy Askew, Board of Health; John Helton, Member at Large; Dale Lauman, County Commissioner and Alan Ruby, Member at Large. Absent: Greg Acton, City of Whitefish.

District Staff present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Operations Manager Jim Chilton and Recording Secretary Deborah Morine.

Attendees: Lee Griswold, Don Komendz, Glen Brist, Matt O'Connell, Carl Cortez, Gary Greig, Connee Greig, Robert Morrow and John Stang, Daily Interlake.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank thanked everyone for attending.

3. Comments from public

Lee Griswold – Ashley Lake Road area. Inquired if the Board had read/considered his comments from the last meeting. And also asked if there had been any follow-up on his suggestion of the location on Rogers Lake Road.

Don Komenda – Idaho Hill Road, Marion. Stated the Marion site is a “jewel of a site”. It has everything already; why close it? He said he had talked to a lady at the Department of Transportation in Helena who said the District can lease the site on a year by year basis for as long as they wanted.

Mr. Komenda stated he had worked for the State Highway Department for 30 years taking care of that stretch of the highway (Highway 2 West). He is concerned with the ½ mile stretch from the “school house” to Ashley Lake Road. He said the road holds ice longer than the rest of the highway as there are trees that do not allow the sun to warm the pavement in the winter. He thinks it is a dangerous place for an approach. He said there would be problems with people stopping to turn into the container site and causing accidents.

Glen Brist – Ashley Lake Road. Stated he agreed with Don.

Gary Greig – Highway 2 West, Ashley Lake area. Stated he owns property across from the proposed site and has had a logging truck and a semi upside down on his property. He said this

is a scenic corridor so could the site be moved back away from the road a little further? He is also worried about the water quality of the runoff that comes from the area of the proposed site and runs through his yard. He said his water supply is from a spring

Connee Greig – Highway 2 West, Ashley Lake area. Agreed with what her husband said and stated her concerns with the approach and water quality.

Don Komenda commented that the Rogers Lake gravel pit had been brought up but “the lady in Helena” said they are not leasing that site.

Mayre Flowers updated the Board on the WasteNot Project. She referred to the recycling press release that was in the paper and stated the schools have been working to get the word out. It’s been a slow start, but the momentum will keep growing and she is encouraged with the program.

Mayre updated the Board on the school recycling grants. She said, of the 9 schools that applied the grants went to Glacier Gateway in Columbia Falls, Kalispell Middle School, Bigfork Elementary & Middle School and Creston Middle School.

Mayre is hopeful to get back into the pharmaceutical issue soon.

Mayre also brought up concerns with the septic wastes from pumping services and the difficulty in finding places to place the septic waste. She asked for an explanation on how the landfill handles this issue. Hank Olson stated it is on the agenda and will be discussed later in the meeting.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for October 28, 2008 - **Action Required**

John Helton moved to adopt the October 28, 2008 meeting minutes. Nancy Askew seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

a. Purchase of Environmental Liability Insurance for the District

Robin Boon from Western States Insurance has completed her research on environmental liability insurance for the District. As Robin discussed with the Board last month, this insurance would be utilized if the District was to have a “release” from the landfill that impacted property outside of District owned land. It could have been utilized when the District discovered the groundwater contamination from the old landfill trenches. The District has incurred expenses over \$2 million on the corrective actions agreed to with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Endurance American Specialty Insurance Company (Endurance) has provided the most cost effective quote for the District (A.M. Best Rating A XV). A three-year \$5 million policy will cost \$72,365.63 (\$69,750 + 3.75% MT tax). A three-year \$3 million policy

will cost \$61,735.40 (\$59,504 + 3.75% MT tax). The rate is flat for the three year policy period and the retroactive date is July 1, 1998. This is the date at which coverage will start. If it is determined that a release was caused from actions before this date the policy cannot be utilized. The District would be responsible for self insured retention of \$25,000 per pollution incident.

If the Board chooses to move forward, they will need to determine which level of coverage to purchase.

John Helton asked if Robin found any better offer. Dave stated there was no better deal out there.

Hank Olson asked which policy the Board chooses. The Board's decision was the 3-year Five Million dollar policy for the premium of \$72,365.63. Dale Lauman said the Commissioners have given their full support.

John Helton moved to authorize the Public Works Director to bind coverage for Environmental Liability Insurance with Endurance American Specialty Insurance Company for a three year policy and execute the required documents. Nancy Askew seconded. Motion passed.

b. Cancellation of December 23, 2008 Board Meeting

The District's affairs are in sufficient order so that the December meeting may be cancelled if desired by the Board of Directors. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on January 27, 2009. Happy Holidays!

Nancy Askew moved to cancel the December 23, 2008 meeting. Alan Ruby seconded. Motion passed.

6. Director's Report

a. West Corridor Container Site Consolidation Project

Staff forwarded the letter received at last month's meeting from Mr. Lee Griswold to the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Department. BJ Grieve, Assistant Planning Director, has been working on a response to the issues brought up by Mr. Griswold in regards to the Flathead County Growth Plan. With the Veteran's Day holiday and conflicting schedules for training, we are hopeful of having the response prepared by the Planning Office for the Board at the meeting.

Staff has also continued discussions with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) on the project. The DNRC visited the site with their hydrogeologist to investigate the ephemeral stream crossing to the new site. His opinion

was that creating a crossing for the access road would not impact the stream. The Army Corps of Engineers was also contacted. They agreed that crossing of the stream will not have an impact. They will review the site again when they are back in the valley. MDT also stated that they believe the entrance to the new facility is properly located on Highway 2.

There were discussions with the public about vehicle counts at the Marion & Kila sites, reusing the fencing from the Marion site and safety of the approach at the proposed Ashley Lake site. Other issues discussed were concerns of litter on Highway 2 and the assumption that the Kila residents would not be willing to drive to the proposed Ashley Lake site.

b. District Strategic Plan Preparation

SWT Engineering has been working on the strategic plan that was authorized by the Board. Mike Cullinane and John Boucher from SWT will be at the January meeting to update the Board on the plan progress to date. This plan is intended to give the District a look beyond our current solid waste operations to the future of solid waste planning in the County. The Board's desire was to look from a 40 year to 100 year life span, or past the current available airspace at the landfill facility. They are analyzing many avenues for the District to consider including expanding the current landfill facility, siting a new landfill in the County, rail or long haul to a regional facility (MT or adjacent states), alternative technologies and increased recycling/source reduction. They will also be analyzing our current container site system and ideas for the future of solid waste removal from residents and businesses within the County.

c. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Construction continues on the energy production facility. Anticipated completion is the spring of 2009. The well field improvements are moving forward. FEC has been working with the design engineer to reduce some costs to the proposal. Currently the estimate for the upgrades is \$479,000. FEC is hopeful to reduce them by \$30,000 to get back to the original cost estimate.

d. Refuse Operations

Operations proceeded well for the month. Tonnage/Volumes are shown below:

| | <u>October</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Total MSW to landfill | 9,348.36 |
| Total Appliances Collected | 935 |
| Junk Vehicles Collected | 23 |
| Truck Trips to Landfill | 529 |
| Refuse tons/trip | 6.80 |

The District landfilled 24.1% less waste in October, 2008 as compared to October, 2007 and our refuse trucks hauled 15.7% less waste comparing the same time frame.

The waste landfilled from January through October, 2008 is down 13.5% as compared to the same time frame in 2007.

i. Policy on sludge from septic pumping trucks

Dave addressed the landfill's policy on accepting septic from pumping trucks. He stated that the landfill is not licensed to accept liquids and therefore cannot not accept sludge from septic pumping trucks. Dave explained that bio-solids are acceptable as they have been through the screening process and are no longer liquid.

e. District Financial Statements

Dave reviewed the Budget and Financial Statements with the Board.

7. Comments from Board Members

Nancy Askew said she had come to the landfill to use the greenboxes and observed a garbage truck dumping the boxes and was happy to see the driver picking up what had fallen out onto the ground.

Hank Olson noted that the recycling box at the Tidyman's location was always dirty on Monday mornings. Matt O'Connell stated that the Albertson's and the Tidyman's locations are the most used recycling sites.

John Helton wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.